COMMUNITY

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EL CENTRAL HISPANIC NEWS

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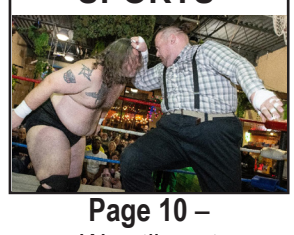
SPORTS



Page 10 – Wrestling at Taqueria El Rey

Luchando por el derecho de vivir en paz

Texto y fotos por Erick Diaz Veliz

La represión de inmigrantes orquestada por Trump ha llegado a su primer año. En Michigan, miembros de la comunidad organizan métodos de autodefensa para evitar detenciones y deportaciones.

"Es para la migra", fue la frase que Evan, miembro de Asamblea Popular Detroit usó para entrar en confianza. Evan se había acercado a un grupo de obreros que compraban comida mexicana para desayunar en una estación de servicio en la avenida Livernois, en Southwest Detroit. La docena de obreros no hablaba inglés. Evan, con un español masticado, intentaba ofrecerles y explicarles lo que tenía en la mano: un silbato. Uno a uno, los obreros, aunque vacilantes, comenzaron a tomar los paquetes de silbatos que horas antes Evan, junto a

Samantha Ramírez holds a photo of her father while he was being held at North Lake facility.

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Fighting for the Right to Live in Peace

Story and photos by Erick Diaz Veliz

The immigrant crackdown orchestrated by Trump has reached its first year. Across Michigan, local community members are putting their bodies between immigration agents, detention, and deportation to protect each other.

"It's for la Migra," was the phrase Evan, a member of Asamblea Popular Detroit, used to break the ice. Evan had approached a group of workers who were buying Mexican food for breakfast at a gas station on Livernois Avenue in Southwest Detroit. The dozen laborers did not speak English. Evan, with halting Spanish, tried to offer and explain what he had in his hand: a whistle. One by one, the workers—though hesitant—began to take the packages of whistles that Evan, along with other

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Continúan las vigilias semanales de oración frente a la oficina de ICE en Detroit

Texto y fotos por Daniel Meloy para Detroit Catholic

El 14 de enero, aproximadamente 80 personas se reunieron antes del amanecer frente a las oficinas del Servicio de Inmigración y Control de Aduanas (ICE) en Detroit, ubicadas sobre Michigan Avenue, para manifestarse a favor de los derechos de los inmigrantes y reclamar el cese de las operaciones de ICE en la ciudad.

Desde hace meses, defensores de una reforma migratoria se reúnen semanalmente en oración frente a la oficina de campo de ICE, en las avenidas Michigan y Third. En esta ocasión, muchos participantes encendieron velas en memoria de Renee Good, una mujer de Minneapolis que murió el 7 de enero tras ser baleada durante un enfrentamiento con un agente de ICE.

"Estamos aquí todos los miércoles desde el primer miércoles de agosto. Esto nace de la doctrina social de la Iglesia y del Evangelio, que nos llama a acompañar a nuestros vecinos", expresó Kim Redigan, feligresa de la parroquia Gesu en Detroit y directora de pastoral en la escuela secundaria Detroit Cristo Rey.

"Hemos estado presentes cada miércoles, sin importar el clima, porque el

Members of Strangers No Longer, a Catholic lay apostolate advocating for immigration reform, join about 80 others in a silent prayer vigil early Jan. 14 in front of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Detroit office. Last week's vigil comes days after the killing of a woman in Minneapolis after a confrontation with an ICE officer.

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Immigration Advocates Continue Weekly Prayer Vigil Outside Detroit ICE Office

Story and photos by Daniel Meloy for Detroit Catholic – Reprinted with permission

Eighty people gathered before dawn in front of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement offices in Detroit on Michigan Avenue to advocate for immigrant rights and a cessation of ICE operations in Detroit on Jan. 14.

Advocates for immigration reform have been hosting weekly prayer vigils outside the ICE Detroit Field Office on Michigan and Third avenues; this week, many held candles in memory of Renee Good, a Minneapolis woman who was shot and killed Jan. 7 during a confrontation with an ICE officer.

"We've been out here every Wednesday since the first Wednesday in August; all of this is in response to Catholic social teaching and to the Gospel in standing with our neighbors," said Kim Redigan, a parishioner at Gesu Parish in Detroit and director of campus ministry at Detroit Cristo Rey High School.

"We've been out here every single Wednesday, regardless of weather, because of the Gospel mandate to love one another," Redigan added.

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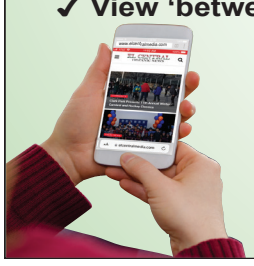

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Fighting for the Right to Live in Peace

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volunteers, had assembled by the hundreds earlier that day. Adopted since November, it was a routine distribution of whistles with instructions at local businesses, restaurants, and gas stations in the area.

January 20 marked one year since Trump returned to the White House. Nationwide, the portraits of empty cars with shattered windows, people being thrown to the ground and arrested by multiple ICE agents, citizens and migrants being threatened and shot, summarize the first year of the immigrant crackdown that Trump has launched.

After the death of Renee Good at the hands of an immigration agent came the Trump Administration's endorsement of an "absolute immunity" for immigration officers. K–12 students arrested and sent to detention centers or deported. And while videos of immigration agents asking for documents based on skin color or accents in Minnesota go viral, communities and activists are seeking new ways to protect one another.

In Michigan, across the Lower Peninsula, from transportation networks, whistles, fundraisers, to patrols and monitoring ICE presence, communities from Grand Rapids to Detroit have adopted self-defense methods because of their effectiveness against these agents in cities like Chicago, Los Angeles, and New York.

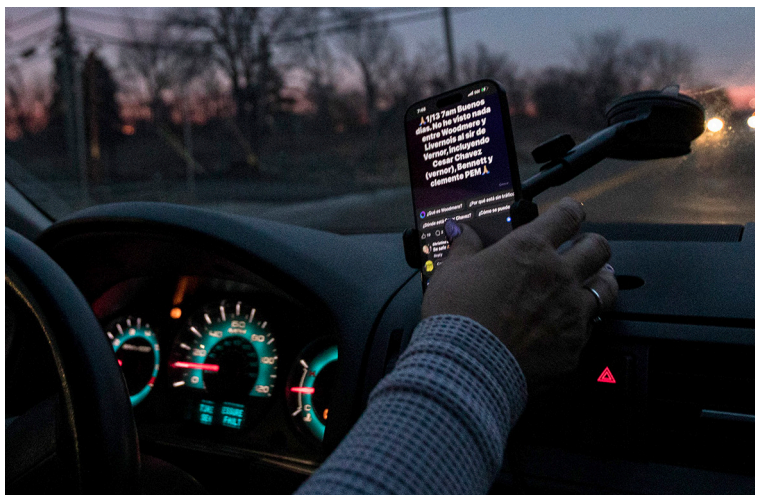
KIT DE ALERTA DE SILBATOS E INFORMACIÓN SOBRE MIGRA WATCH
Unete a los esfuerzos para mantener nuestros barrios seguros.
Toma uno o algunos para compartir con otros.
@asamblea_popular_detroit
WARNING WHISTLE KIT AND INFORMATION ABOUT I.C.E. WATCH
Join the efforts to keep our neighborhood safe.
Take one or a few to share with others.
@asamblea_popular_detroit

Volunteers packed and distributed various items to warn neighbors about I.C.E. sightings.

"Students are going to school with fear; there is a lot of fear even among U.S. citizens," adds Pauli Astudillo, a member of Asamblea. "And the first step to breaking fear is coming together and helping one another in whatever way we can."

Verónica Rodríguez carries more than one of these whistles; she keeps them close in case she has to use them or give them to someone else. It's almost 6 a.m. on January 13th, and messages from neighbors about ICE presence are arriving on her phone. In a WhatsApp group, she coordinates with two other drivers who can confirm that location. This time it will be Vero, as they affectionately call her; she, along with other drivers, patrols the streets of Southwest Detroit, alerting people to determine the presence of ICE agents through broadcasts and Facebook posts.

Since April, Vero has defined schedules and routes. Trucks and SUVs with tinted windows and vehicles left in unusual or no parking areas are potential suspects. Upon arriving at the sighting area, Vero finds an abandoned white truck; the people who were inside have already been arrested. She takes photos and updates that the area is now clear. The other drivers arrive, try to find information about the vehicle to notify family members, and coordinate for a tow truck to remove it.



Veronica Rodriguez drives during an ICE watch through Southwest Detroit.

In cities like Grand Rapids, Pontiac, and Detroit, ordinary citizens have been patrolling and alerting the community so they can maintain their daily routines. For Rodríguez, it has become a responsibility because she does not want to see her neighbors in detention centers or deported. "People wait for our messages so they can go out to buy food, medicine, and all that," Rodríguez says. "They are people at risk who need care, and they always thank us. They have also learned to report, but they also depend on our alerts. That's how the community becomes empowered."

Although there have not been immigration raids like those in Los Angeles, Chicago, or Minneapolis in Michigan, for many activists, it is not far-fetched to think that Detroit or Grand Rapids could be next. Here, daily ICE arrests have increased by 230% compared to 2024, according to MLive, and deportations have increased by 123% over 2024. Jeff Smith of GR Rapid Response to ICE says that the presence of immigration agents has intensified since June and that they maintain surveillance and arrest tactics during morning activities.

Donald Trump during his speech in Detroit.

Together with the Cosecha movement, GR Rapid Response works to "minimize the harm that is directed at immigrants." Transportation networks to court appointments or daily shopping, protests in favor of sanctuary policies, fundraising for family support, and legal expenses are some of the ways they help. Both groups began in 2017.

"Most of the people who are detained are the main economic support of their families. From one moment to the next, households are left without income, and they still have to pay rent and buy food," Smith points out.

Last year, during Trump's inauguration as the 47th president of the United States, temperatures in Michigan were in the single digits. In downtown Grand Rapids, activists from the Cosecha movement marched against the anti-immigrant crusade that was to come. "Deportations are problems that immigrants have always had to deal with, whether under this government or the previous one. We want to put an end to that. They are just the same coin with a different face," said Gema Lowe, a member of Movimiento Cosecha, on that occasion.

Amid freezing temperatures, Movimiento Cosecha protested against Trump on January 20th, 2024

Since then, complaints about collaboration between local police and ICE and demands over sanctuary policies in Grand Rapids and Kent County have become constant pressure amid refusals by Mayor David LaGrand, who considers them "false hope." On the afternoon of January 6, five volunteers from Cosecha and GR Rapid Response were arrested inside the Kent County Sheriff's building. They were protesting alleged collaboration between the county sheriff's office and ICE, in which immigrants were being held longer until ICE arrived, despite being ready for release.

In Detroit, on Tuesday, January 13, the term "sanctuary" was on the lips of politicians, activists, and community members. During the Detroit City Council meeting, residents demanded strong actions and sanctuary policies to protect immigrants. Two miles away, at the Motor City Casino Hotel, Trump, in his speech, threatened that every sanctuary jurisdiction will lose all federal funding starting February 1.

Fernando Ramírez, 66, went through two processing centers before being sent to the North Lake Processing Center in Baldwin. Ramírez, who has a legal work permit, was arrested by ICE subcontractor agents in October 2025 while weighing the trailer he was driving.

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TAQUERIA,
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Volunteers display immigrants are welcome flyers around Southwest Detroit

For his daughters, Samantha Ramírez, 37, and her sister Nahomi, 30, it was a blessing that he was taken close to them. They live 40 minutes driving from Baldwin and began offering help to other detainees that her father befriended inside. They created Raices Migrantes to provide support to those held inside North Lake, including financial assistance, communication with the outside, and transportation to reunite them with their families.

"What we're doing is making sure detainees have someone; that they know there are people out here fighting for them," Samantha says. "We put a little bit of money into each account. Even though it wasn't much, for them it was everything, because that's how they talk to their families and buy some food to be more comfortable."

Since North Lake opened in the summer of 2025, its detainee population grew from 28 in August to 1,352 by the end of November, according to the Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse (TRAC). Representative Rashida Tlaib (MI-12) described the facility as having "dehumanizing conditions" after a visit in early December.

Reports of mistreatment, poor food, suicide attempts, and the most recent death of a Bulgarian immigrant in mid-December—whom ICE said died of natural causes—set off alarms among everyone arrested by federal agents and their families.

When a detainee is released, families are notified with very little notice. From there, a transportation network, in coordination with other drivers, helps released detainees reunite with their families in states such as Illinois, Indiana, and Wisconsin.

On the evening of December 12, Fernando Ramírez was released following an Habeas Corpus. The family reunions that the Ramírez sisters made possible for dozens of released detainees they were finally experiencing themselves. On the way home, tears, kisses, and hugs did not stop during a nearly an hour-long drive. Now, Raíces Migrantes will maintain greater contact with detainees to give them a voice outside.

"What all of us do is a reminder that there are more good people than bad—it's just that right now the bad ones are a little stronger," Samantha concluded. "But we must keep fighting for our right to live in peace."

Erick Diaz Veliz is a Peruvian reporter based in Lansing, Michigan. He has documents and reports on cultural, social, and political issues in Peru and Michigan as a freelancer. Erick was born in Lima, Peru, and has been living in Lansing since 2018.

This article and photos were made possible thanks to a generous grant to EL CENTRAL Hispanic News by Press Forward, the national movement to strengthen communities by reinvigorating local news. Learn more at www.pressforward.news.

Guest Commentary

How to Rebuild Detroit's Distressed Neighborhoods? Look to Southwest Detroit

By John E. Mogk for BridgeDetroit – Reprinted with permission | Photos by Laurén Abdel-Razzaq, BridgeDetroit

The best way for city officials to revitalize Detroit's distressed neighborhoods is to start with the neighbors themselves.

Detroit residents are hopeful that Mayor Sheffield will expand upon the work of former Mayor Duggan in rebuilding the city's distressed neighborhoods. He laid the foundation for the rebuilding process for more than a decade by improving neighborhood infrastructure, refurbishing commercial strips, clearing abandoned homes, cleaning parks and vacant lots and building greenways. Notwithstanding these actions, however, much of the rebuilding within the neighborhoods themselves remains to be done. It can best be accomplished by the city increasing its partnership with community-based redevelopment corporations and providing more financial and technical support to them.

A mural off Bagley Street across from the Roberto Clemente Recreation Center in Hubbard Richard.

Such corporations offer an alternative path to indiscriminate resident removal through clearance or gentrification. With few exceptions, neighborhoods in the city that have maintained stability or made gains in the rebuilding process in the past few decades have been led by community-based corporations.

A lesson can be found in the redevelopment of the pre-World War I, 20-block neighborhood built adjacent to Ste. Anne de Detroit at Lafayette and Ste. Anne in Southwest Detroit. Like most neighborhoods in the city, it experienced rapid population loss and abandonment beginning in the 1960's; By 1995, the neighborhood was 50% vacant, with many remaining homes in need of repair or labeled not salvageable. At the same time, the Ambassador Bridge company was attempting to expand into its blocks and take over land.

That is when a small group of neighborhood leaders and Ste. Anne's parishioners joined to halt the decline, stop the expansion and rebuild their neighborhood. They succeeded.

Beginning in 1996, a redevelopment plan was prepared for completion within 10 years and a community-based nonprofit corporation, Bagley Housing Development Corporation, was formed to coordinate the work. Under the leadership of Vince Murray, a Ste. Anne's parishioner, a small staff was hired and a storefront office opened. The corporation developed strong working relationships with the city, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Michigan State Housing Development Authority and funders, all eager contributors to achieving the goal.

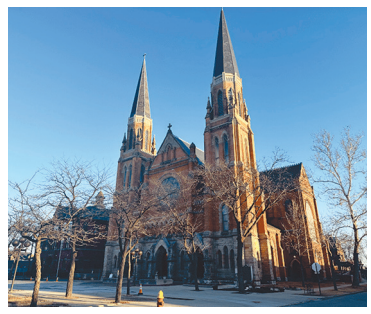
Implementation of the plan progressed over 5 stages. Initially, abandoned homes were identified for rehabilitation or removal, along with occupied homes in need of repair and 11 affordable homes were built.

Through 2002, another 11 affordable homes were added and 24 occupied homes were repaired. As development expanded, 23 more affordable homes were built, a 65-unit affordable senior housing project was finished, Ste Anne's historic elementary school was rehabilitated as a charter school, 40 more occupied homes were repaired, and a mini-park, alleys and sewer lines were refurbished by the city.

By 2003, a revitalized neighborhood that met the needs of residents was taking shape. Over the next three years, more than 100 more affordable housing units were added, 130 homes repaired and a market-rate housing development begun.

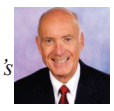
Simultaneously, the city refurbished the local recreation center and the neighborhood food market expanded in size threefold.

The neighborhood plan was completed by 2007, before the rebirth of downtown and while the nearby Michigan Central Depot still stood in ruins, serving as a nationally recognized symbol of Detroit's industrial blight.



Sainte Anne de Detroit

Neighborhoods can be rebuilt for their residents if the city supports a community-based redevelopment corporation, assists in its planning, partners in its work and helps assure involvement of other public and private organizations committed to the rebirth. The model established by Bagley Housing Development Corporation in rebuilding the neighborhood adjacent to Ste. Anne de Detroit provides the framework for getting the job done.



John E. Mogk is a distinguished service professor at Wayne State University's Law School. He teaches courses on property, state and local government law, land use planning and urban development.

Artículo de Opinión externa

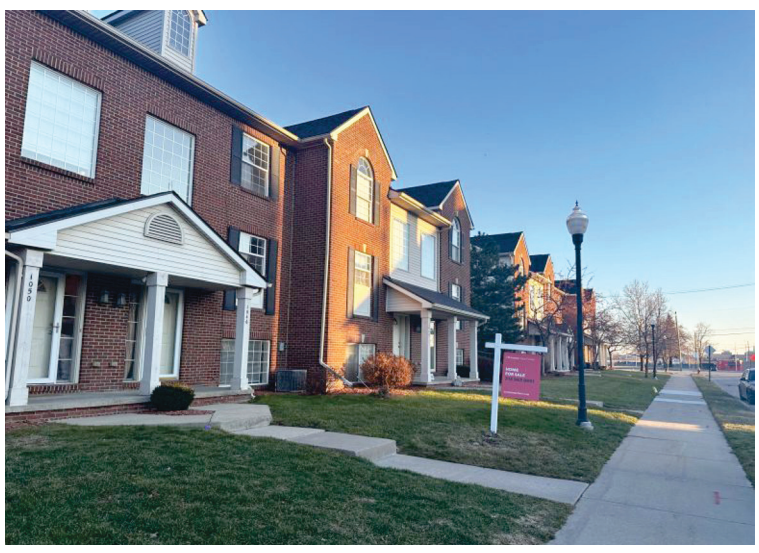
¿Cómo reconstruir los barrios en crisis de Detroit? Miren hacia Southwest Detroit

Por John E. Mogk para BridgeDetroit – Reimpreso con autorización | Fotos de Laurén Abdel-Razzaq, BridgeDetroit

La mejor manera para que los funcionarios de la ciudad revitalicen los barrios en crisis de Detroit es empezar con los propios vecinos.

Los residentes de Detroit tienen la esperanza de que el alcalde Sheffield expanda el trabajo del ex alcalde Duggan en la reconstrucción de los vecindarios necesitados de la ciudad. Él sentó las bases para el proceso de reconstrucción durante más de una década al mejorar la infraestructura de los barrios, renovar corredores comerciales, despejar casas abandonadas, limpiar parques y lotes baldíos y construir vías verdes (greenways). No obstante estas acciones, queda mucho por hacer en la reconstrucción dentro de los propios barrios. Esto se puede lograr mejor si la ciudad aumenta su colaboración con corporaciones de reurbanización comunitarias y les proporciona más apoyo financiero y técnico.

Tales corporaciones ofrecen un camino alternativo al desalojo indiscriminado de residentes mediante la demolición o la gentrificación. Con pocas excepciones, los barrios de la ciudad que han mantenido la estabilidad o logrado avances en el proceso de reconstrucción en las últimas décadas han sido liderados por corporaciones comunitarias.



Una casa en venta en 18th Street y Lafayette Blvd., cerca de Ste. Anne's Basilica en Southwest Detroit.

Se puede encontrar una lección en la reurbanización del barrio de 20 cuadras, construido antes de la Primera Guerra Mundial, adyacente a Ste. Anne de Detroit en Lafayette y Ste. Anne en Southwest Detroit. Como la mayoría de los vecindarios de la ciudad, experimentó una rápida pérdida de población y abandono a partir de la década de 1960; para 1995, el barrio estaba vacante en un 50%, con muchas casas restantes necesitadas de reparación o etiquetadas como no recuperables. Al mismo tiempo, la compañía del Ambassador Bridge intentaba expandirse hacia sus cuadras y apoderarse de los terrenos.

Fue entonces cuando un pequeño grupo de líderes del barrio y feligreses de Ste. Anne se unieron para detener el deterioro, frenar la expansión y reconstruir su comunidad. Y tuvieron éxito.

A partir de 1996, se preparó un plan de reurbanización para completarse en 10 años y se formó una corporación sin fines de lucro basada en la comunidad, Bagley Housing Development Corporation, para coordinar el trabajo. Bajo el liderazgo de Vince Murray, un feligrés de Ste. Anne, se contrató un pequeño personal y se abrió una oficina en un local comercial. La corporación desarrolló relaciones de trabajo sólidas con la ciudad, el U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, la Michigan State Housing Development Authority y financiadores, todos contribuyentes entusiastas para lograr la meta.

La implementación del plan avanzó en 5 etapas. Inicialmente, se identificaron casas abandonadas para su rehabilitación o demolición, junto con casas ocupadas que necesitaban reparaciones, y se construyeron 11 viviendas asequibles.

Hasta el 2002, se agregaron otras 11 viviendas asequibles y se repararon 24 casas ocupadas. A medida que el desarrollo se expandió, se construyeron 23 viviendas asequibles más, se terminó un proyecto de vivienda para personas mayores de 65 unidades, la histórica escuela primaria de Ste. Anne fue rehabilitada como una escuela charter, se repararon 40 casas ocupadas más, y la ciudad renovó un miniparque, callejones y líneas de alcantarillado.

Para el 2003, estaba tomando forma un barrio revitalizado que satisfacía las necesidades de los residentes. Durante los siguientes tres años, se agregaron más de 100 unidades de vivienda asequible, se repararon 130 casas y se inició un desarrollo de viviendas a precio de mercado.

Simultáneamente, la ciudad renovó el centro recreativo local y el mercado de alimentos del barrio triplicó su tamaño.

El plan del vecindario se completó en 2007, antes del renacimiento del centro de la ciudad y mientras la cercana Michigan Central Depot todavía estaba en ruinas, sirviendo como un símbolo reconocido nacionalmente del deterioro industrial de Detroit.

Los barrios pueden ser reconstruidos para sus residentes si la ciudad apoya a una corporación de reurbanización comunitaria, ayuda en su planificación, colabora en su trabajo y ayuda a asegurar la participación de otras organizaciones públicas y privadas comprometidas con el renacimiento. El modelo establecido por Bagley Housing Development Corporation en la reconstrucción del vecindario adyacente a Ste. Anne de Detroit proporciona el marco para lograr el trabajo.

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Vigilias semanales de oración frente a la oficina de ICE en Detroit

Continuado de la página 1

Evangelio nos pide amarnos unos a otros", agregó.

La vigilia comenzó hace varios años, impulsada por un grupo de religiosas preocupadas por el endurecimiento de las políticas migratorias. Con el tiempo, la iniciativa fue asumida por Strangers No Longer, un apostolado católico dedicado al acompañamiento de personas migrantes, junto con grupos de distintas denominaciones cristianas.

Kim Redigan, feligresa de la parroquia Gesu en Detroit y directora de pastoral en la escuela secundaria Detroit Cristo Rey, sostiene un cartel en solidaridad con las familias que han sido separadas.

Participantes sostienen velas durante una vigilia de oración en silencio frente a la oficina del Servicio de Inmigración y Control de Aduanas (ICE) en Detroit, sobre Michigan Avenue.

Generalmente entre 20 y 30 personas asisten a las vigilias semanales de 7:30 a 8 a.m., pero la convocatoria de este miércoles fue más numerosa tras la muerte de Good. Redigan señaló que los recientes arrestos y la violencia contra inmigrantes y defensores han intensificado la necesidad de exigir una aplicación más humana de las políticas y procedimientos migratorios.

"Creo que la gente siempre ha estado comprometida, pero lo ocurrido con Good fue un punto de inflexión", dijo Redigan. "Sabemos que hay muchas otras personas que han muerto en detención, especialmente personas de color, y a veces sus historias no reciben tanta atención. Así que sí, creo que esto movilizó a la gente, pero son personas que han estado caminando tras Jesús semana tras semana, año tras año, durante mucho tiempo, década tras década".

Los manifestantes sobre Michigan Avenue mencionaron otras razones para participar de la vigilia, desde pedir el fin de que los agentes de ICE usen pasamontañas durante las redadas, hasta exigir que no se realicen operativos migratorios en lugares de culto.

Para otros participantes, la vigilia semanal simplemente ofrece una oportunidad de manifestar su solidaridad con sus hermanos y hermanas inmigrantes y de acompañarse mutuamente.

La hermana Cathey Desantis, CSJ, dijo que a veces las noticias la hacen sentir impotente al ver toda la violencia y los conflictos, pero que estar de pie en oración silenciosa es una forma de dar testimonio y actuar.

La hermana Cathey Desantis, CSJ (a la derecha), se unió a sus hermanas de la Congregación de San José para promover una política migratoria más humana. La religiosa señaló que, en medio de la frustración que generan la tensión y el discurso en torno a la inmigración en Estados Unidos, en ocasiones sienten que la única forma de actuar es manifestarse en favor de las personas migrantes.

Muchos participantes llevaron carteles con mensajes de fe que llamaban a reconocer a Dios en los migrantes e inmigrantes.

"Creo que muchas personas ven todo lo que está pasando y, como yo, se sienten impotentes frente a esta situación", dijo la hermana Desantis. "Esto les da la oportunidad de expresar su apoyo, ya sea sosteniendo un cartel o tocando la bocina. Se solidarizan con lo que está ocurriendo; saludan con la mano".

"Es una manera de apoyar a la gente de Minneapolis; es una forma de decir, a través de nuestros carteles, que lo que se les está haciendo a los inmigrantes está mal y que no lo vamos a aceptar", agregó.

En esta fría mañana de miércoles, cuando el sol aún no asomaba entre los edificios del centro de Detroit, la presencia de personas de distintas confesiones fue un testimonio de la misión cristiana de tratar a todo hombre, mujer y niño, sin importar su estatus legal, con la dignidad que corresponde a un hijo de Dios, señaló Redigan.

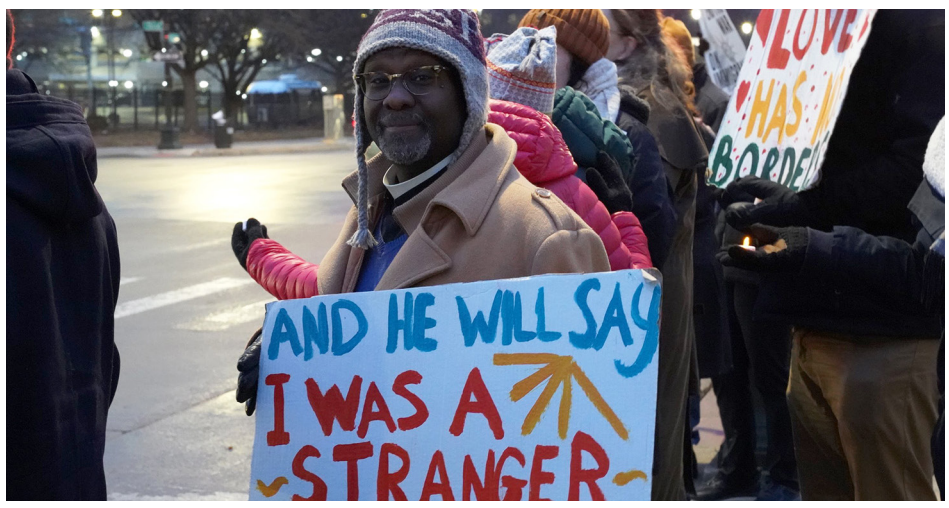
"Me gusta pensar que estamos haciendo la obra de Dios", afirmó Redigan. "Los resultados no están en nuestras manos; lo único que hacemos es responder al llamado de Jesús a ser valientes, a comprometernos, a vivir las bienaventuranzas, las enseñanzas de la Iglesia y el Evangelio. Los frutos llegan por la gracia de Dios".

"Espero que al vernos aquí, esto ayude a generar mayor conciencia y lleve a las personas a reflexionar sobre decisiones que afectan la vida familiar y comunitaria, y a reclamar un mundo más justo", añadió.

Kim Redigan, a member of Gesu Parish in Detroit and director of campus ministry at Detroit Cristo Rey High School, holds a sign in solidarity with separated families.

People hold electric candlelights during a silent prayer vigil on Michigan Avenue in front of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Detroit office.

Sr. Cathey Desantis, CSJ, (right) joined her fellow Congregation of St. Joseph sisters in advocating for a more humane immigration policy. Sr. Desantis said at times, all the sisters feel they can do is demonstrate on behalf of migrants amidst frustration with the turmoil and rhetoric surrounding immigration in the United States.



Many people at the demonstration carried faith-based signs calling for recognizing the presence of God in migrants and immigrants. All photos credited to Daniel Meloy for Detroit Catholic.

Weekly Prayer Vigil Outside Detroit ICE Office

Continued from page 1

The vigil began years ago, started by a group of women religious concerned about harsh immigration policies. Since then, it has been promoted by Strangers No Longer, a Catholic apostolate dedicated to serving the needs of migrants, and groups from various Christian denominations.

Kim Redigan, a member of Gesu Parish in Detroit and director of campus ministry at Detroit Cristo Rey High School, holds a sign in solidarity with separated families.

People hold electric candlelights during a silent prayer vigil on Michigan Avenue in front of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Detroit office.

Typically, 20 to 30 people attend the weekly vigils from 7:30 to 8 a.m., but this Wednesday's outing was more robust in the wake of Good's death. Redigan said arrests and violence against immigrants and advocates have heightened the need to call for human enforcement of immigration policies and procedures.

"I think people have always been advocating, but (Good's killing) certainly was a crystallizing moment," Redigan said. "But we know that there are many others who died in detention, especially people of color, and sometimes their stories aren't lifted as much. So yes, I do think this was a mobilizing moment for people, but these are folks who've been doing the walk of following Jesus week in and week out, year in and year out, for a very long time, decade after decade."

Demonstrators along Michigan Avenue spoke of other reasons for attending the vigil, from calling for an end to ICE agents masking during raids, to stopping immigration enforcement at religious sites.

For others, the weekly vigil simply provides an opportunity to stand in solidarity with their immigrant brothers and sisters and with one another.

Sr. Cathey Desantis, CSJ, said at times the news can make her feel helpless, seeing all the strife and violence, but that standing in silent prayer in a way to witness and take action.

Sr. Cathey Desantis, CSJ, (right) joined her fellow Congregation of St. Joseph sisters in advocating for a more humane immigration policy. Sr. Desantis said at times, all the sisters feel they can do is demonstrate on behalf of migrants amidst frustration with the turmoil and rhetoric surrounding immigration in the United States.

Many people at the demonstration carried faith-based signs calling for recognizing the presence of God in migrants and immigrants.

"I think people see all of this happening and, like me, feel helpless about the situation," Sr. Desantis said. "This gives folks an opportunity to show their support, whether that's holding a sign or honking their horn. They're in solidarity with what's happening; they wave.

"It's an opportunity to support people in Minneapolis; it's an opportunity to say with our signs, that what we're doing to immigrants is wrong, and we're not going to stand for it," Sr. Desantis said.

On this brisk Wednesday morning, with the sun yet to emerge from above the buildings of downtown Detroit, the gathering of people of different faiths was a witness to the Christian mission to treat every man, woman and child — regardless of legal status — with the dignity befitting of a child of God, Redigan said.

"I like to think that we're doing God's work," Redigan said. "The outcomes are not in our hands; all we do is respond to Jesus' call to be bold, to take a stance, to live the beatitudes, to live our Catholic social teaching, to live the Gospel. The outcomes happen by the grace of God.

"I'm hoping that by people seeing us out here, it may raise consciousness and send people to a place where they focus on the choices that are being made that disrupt family life and community life, and call for a more just world," Redigan said.

Detroit Cristo Rey High School Announces Appointment of New President

The Detroit Cristo Rey High School Board of Directors is pleased to announce that William R. McGrail has been appointed as President of Detroit Cristo Rey High School, effective January 5, 2026.

McGrail was selected following an extensive national search. Board President, Joaquin Nuno-Whelan, shared, "McGrail brings a strong background in strategic leadership, operational management, fundraising, and people development. Equally compelling is his deep passion as a champion for youth and commitment to educational opportunity."

The President role will be externally focused, with responsibility for community engagement, strategic planning, organizational development, fundraising, and long-term financial sustainability.

"I am honored and humbled at the opportunity to lead the remarkable mission of Detroit Cristo Rey and to build upon the strong foundation that has been laid down since its founding in 2008 to help our students realize their full potential and achieve their dreams," said McGrail. "I look forward to working with all of our dedicated stakeholders to ensure that Detroit Cristo Rey continues to be a beacon of opportunity for the young women, men and families that we serve."

Most recently, McGrail led fundraising, community partnership efforts and securing new work experience partnerships for Loyola High School in Detroit. He also spearheaded the successful visioning, development and execution of the $9 million Empower Loyola capital campaign.

"Bill is exceptionally well-suited to lead Detroit Cristo Rey into its next chapter," said Mary Messana, who chaired the Search Committee. "Bill's experience, faith-driven leadership, and dedication to student success will strengthen our mission and expand opportunities for young people across Detroit."

New Detroit Cristo Rey President, William R. McGrail.
Photo provided by Detroit Cristo Rey

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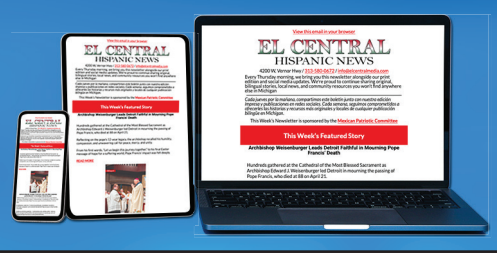
EL CENTRAL HISPANIC NEWS



De la oficina del Tesorero del Condado de Wayne,
Eric R. Sabree

PUEDE AYUDARLO CON EL PROCESO DE ASISTENCIA CON SUCESIONES

¿Se enfrenta a una ejecución hipotecaria y necesita ayuda para iniciar un proceso de sucesiones en el Tribunal de Sucesiones del Condado de Wayne porque una propiedad está a nombre de un familiar fallecido?

COMUNÍQUESE CON UNO DE NUESTROS SOCIOS COMUNITARIOS:

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MILegalServices.org

United Community Housing Coalition: 313-725-4560
UCHCDetroit.org

Lakeshore Legal Aid: 888-783-8190
LakeshoreLegalAid.org

www.Treasurer.WayneCounty.com
313-224-5990

¡Estamos aquí para ayudarle!

LEM/CBS/CLLAS Alumni Association Officially Launches with an Ambitious Agenda Ahead

On Wednesday, January 14, 2026, past students of the Wayne State University Center for Latino/a and Latin American Studies (CLLAS), Chicano Boricua Studies (CBS), and Latino en Marcha (LEM) programs braved snowstorm conditions to gather for a historic occasion. Despite the inclement weather, more than 20 alumni met in person and online to discuss the formal launch and future of an alumni association, an idea propelled by two recent successful reunions and an increase of alumni participating in university events supporting current students.

A small steering committee comprised of founding and early program alumni led by Benjamin Esquivel of the original fall 1971 LEM cohort, and including community leaders Ines De Jesus, Belda Garza, Elena Herrada and Ozzie Rivera, had invested several weeks' time researching association models and planning the launch. Dinner was provided at the in-person location, LA SED's Youth and Senior Center, by the steering committee. "55 years ago, we met in LA SED's basement to take classes. We are now back at LA SED to ensure this educational legacy lasts for another 50 years," stated Esquivel at the meeting's opening.

LA SED played a pivotal role in the creation of the Latino en Marcha Program over 1970 and 1971, securing funding from New Detroit Inc. for the proposed one-year leadership program for college-aged youth, and partnering with Wayne State University to offer relevant coursework to participating students.

During the first year, the program proved so impactful, with participants demonstrating incredible promise working in teams to address concerns in their communities, and interest from prospective students growing rapidly, that the Wayne State University Board of Governors voted to formally incorporate it into the university as an academic program, Chicano-Boricua Studies, named after the Mexican American and Puerto Rican communities that had mobilized in Detroit to create more educational opportunities for young people.

Over the years, the program grew into a multidisciplinary university center, changing its name to the Center for Latino/a and Latin American Studies in 2011. More than 2,500 students have participated in the center's learning community program since 1971 and thousands more have benefitted from the classes, events and other activities it hosts annually.

Today, participating Wayne State CLLAS students take part in an accelerated summer program to acclimate to college, work with peer mentors and advisors throughout the year, pursue coursework related to Latin America and U.S. Latino/as, develop research projects to present at an annual Latino/a Studies research conference, have access to professional alumni mentors and other community leaders, and complete service learning projects related to their fields of study. CLLAS is open to students of all backgrounds and majors who have an interest in Southwest Detroit, the Latino/a community in Michigan, and more broadly, Latino/as in the U.S.

At the launch meeting, alumni voted the organization into existence as the LEM/CBS/CLLAS Alumni Association, discussed proposed bylaws, and elected the following officers to serve a one-year term to get the association off the ground: President Laura Chavez (of the 1996 CBS cohort); Vice President Nathan Chavez (CBS 2002); Secretary Maricruz Moya (CLLAS 2013); and Treasurer Belda Garza (LEM 1971). The board has representation from all major periods of the program's long history.

Upon her election Southwest Detroit native and leader Laura Chavez said, "The CBS program was a major factor in me going to college and earning my degree. I am very honored to be nominated and look forward to working together to make our community proud."

Over the next year, the LEM/CBS/CLLAS Alumni Association Board and members will focus on incorporating the organization and finalizing the bylaws, contacting and mobilizing fellow program alumni, and fundraising to endow and award a student scholarship named after the program's longtime director, History Professor Dr. Jorge L. Chinea. The next two general meetings are scheduled for February 19 and March 19 (both Thursdays) at 6 p.m., location to be determined. Interested alumni can contact CLLAS@wayne.edu for more details.

Alumni of the Wayne State University Center for Latino/a and Latin American Studies pictured with LA SED Executive Director Mary Carmen Muñoz (center) met at LA SED's Youth and Senior Center on January 14 to officially launch the LEM/CBS/CLLAS Alumni Association.

The Sun Shined Brightly on this Year's Clark Park Winter Carnival!

Photos by Bill Deuparo

Last year's Clark Park Winter Carnival & Charity Hockey Classic started off in the pouring rain, but this year's 14th annual event had lots of sunshine despite the cold weather. Hundreds of community members joined in on the day's activities which included a petting zoo, horse drawn carriage rides, outdoor games, Huron Metro Parks displays, marshmallow roasting, and, of course, ice skating and hot chocolate.

The Carnival's activities were capped off with ML Elrick's 11th annual Charity Hockey Classic which added thousands to the fundraising effort, thanks to the men who paid to participate in the game. A big thank you goes out to the Clark Park Coalition's hard-working staff and volunteers who made sure everyone had a great time.

Many thanks to the generous sponsors who helped us raise nearly $40,000 for the park. They included Huntington Bank, Ideal Shield, Metropolitan United Women in Faith, Credit Union One, DTE Energy, Henry Ford Health, the Brennan Group, Inkwell Partners, HAP and ML Soul of Detroit.

You, too, can support the park by donating to our Patronicity fundraising campaign which continues through this month. Help us reach our new $6,000 goal by going to www.patronicity.com and search for "Clark Park 2026". No amount is too small – or too big!

Detroit Auto Manufacturers Take Top Awards at 2026 Detroit Auto Show

Article and photos by Michael Alberts

Ford Maverick Lobo® Named North American Truck of the Year

For the sixth year in a row, Ford Motor Company won the North American Truck of the Year. The "Bargain Buggy" was also the Detroit News Readers' Choice and the Motor Trend Truck of the Year. The "Lobo" has a sleek lowered look with special wheel rims enhancing its appearance.

Key Winning Specifications:

Performance Engine: Features a 2.0L EcoBoost engine delivering **250 horsepower** and **280 lb-ft of torque.**

Exclusive "Lobo Mode": A track-inspired drive mode that optimizes cornering and stability by leveraging a **twin-clutch rear drive unit** for advanced torque vectoring.

Sport-Tuned Chassis: Includes a lowered ride height (0.5" front / 1.12" rear), performance-tuned steering, and upgraded front brakes from the European **Focus ST**.

Unique 7-Speed Transmission: A specialized "quick-shift" automatic transmission that uses paddle shifters and unique programming to improve acceleration.

Styling: Distinctive 19-inch "turbofan" black-painted wheels, a unique front fascia, and a black-painted roof.

According to Ford

The story of the Lobo began in the garages of Maverick owners. Since the truck's initial launch, Ford's social media feeds and enthusiast forums were flooded with images of customized Mavericks. Owners were lowering their ride heights, swapping in performance wheels, and tuning their engines to create modern "street trucks" reminiscent of the high-performance pickup culture of the 1990s. Ford took notice. Rather than letting the aftermarket have all the fun, we put the customer at the center of the development process. The Maverick Lobo is the direct result of that evolution — a factory-engineered performance truck that brings unique design and value to urban streets, all backed by a factory warranty.

Dodge Charger Wins North American Car of the Year™ 2026!

The Dodge Muscle Car was also the Detroit News Readers' Choice, Free Press and the Top Gear.com.

Key Winning Specifications:

The new Dodge Charger lineup combines retro-inspired design with cutting-edge technology. Key standard features for both the Charger Scat Pack with SIXPACK engine and the fully electric Charger Daytona Scat Pack include:

Best-in-class power and all-wheel drive capability.

Muscular Dodge exterior inspired by pure heritage, featuring the widest body of any car in the industry.

A complete set of driving modes, including Sport and Custom variants, as well as high-performance features like Launch Control.

According to Stellantis:

"Winning the North American Car of the Year award is a testament to Dodge's constant drive to break molds and redefine segments," said Matt McAlear, CEO of Dodge. "The Charger lineup offers the ideal power, including the 550 horsepower of the Scat Pack with SIXPACK engine and the 670 horsepower of the Daytona, available in both two-door and four-door configurations. This recognition validates our vision for the future of the muscle car."

READY SET Ford
EL SENDERO SE ENCUENTRA CON STREET VIEW
Equipada con la nueva cámara Street View de Google Maps, una Ford Bronco® Badlands® capturó todas las imágenes de la ruta TransAmérica.

Ford Maverick Lobo® Named North American Truck of the Year

An electric Dodge Charger races through the Detroit Grand Prix hybrid course. Photo by Adam Dewey

MSU President and Pete Buttigieg Discuss the Auto Industry

Media day at the Auto Show in Detroit saw more than 300 members of the media gather to hear Michigan State University President Kevin Guskiewicz interview former Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg on the state of the auto industry.

Buttigieg recalled being born in South Bend, Indiana just after the close of Studebaker and reflected on the impact of the automaker's closure on South Bend and also on his time as mayor of the Indiana city.

The former Secretary of Transportation expressed that he still believes that EV's are the future of the auto industry. He expressed concerns that recent rollbacks of fuel economy and emission regulations could limit the research and development of American cars and trucks while China and other countries perfect and improve EV and other technologies. He believes that keeping US based companies focused on carbon-based fuel as a long term solution is a dangerous turn of events. As leader of a top US research University, MSU's president was attentive about how the industry would approach the future.

Following the nearly hour-long discussion Buttigieg went to the Ford display to look at Ford's Mach-E Mustang.

Pete Buttigieg takes a look at Mustang Mach-E as a potential buyer

MSU President Kevin Guskiewicz, left, and former US Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg

DETROIT AUTO SHOW

Photos by Adam J. Dewey

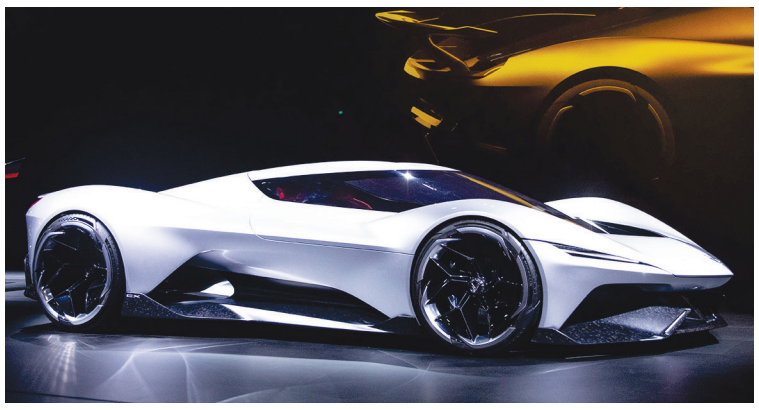
From immersive track experiences and dozens of vehicle brands to explore, the 2026 Detroit Auto Show is a two-week celebration of mobility, innovation, and the spirit of the Motor City. The show runs through Sunday, Jan. 25 at Detroit's Huntington Place.

"The minute visitors walk through the doors, they'll feel the energy as they're welcomed by more brands, more cars, more immersive experiences, and awesome digital activations that appeal to all ages and across generations," said 2026 Detroit Auto Show Chairman Todd Szott.

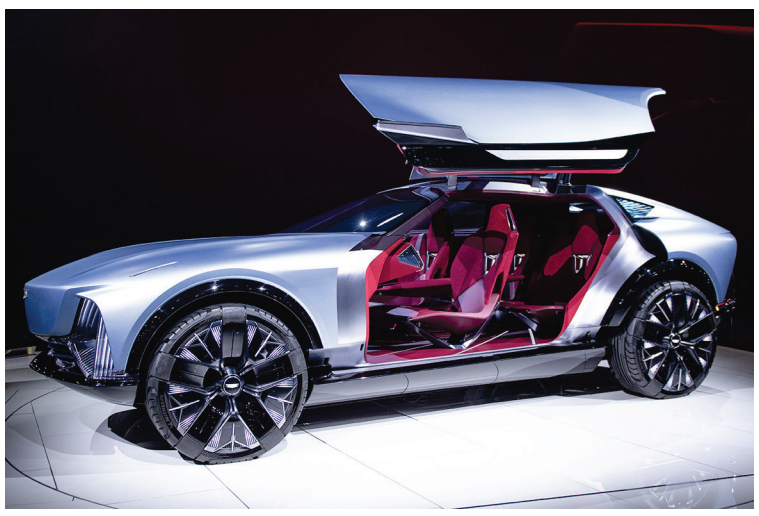
With 41 brands on display, including everything from popular mainstream nameplates and uber-luxury marques to exotic supercars and award-winning vehicles, the Detroit Auto Show is a hub for comparison shopping and a place to experience firsthand many of these brands.

Open to the public through Sunday, January 25, 2026.
Hours: 10am to 8pm now through Saturday, January 24 and 10am to 7pm on Sunday, January 25.
Tickets are available in advance at www.detroitautoshow.com. Admission is $25 for adults, $15 for 65 years and older, $10 for 3-12 years old and free for kids under 2. A family pass is also available for $60 which includes tickets for two adults and three children.

A Jeep Wrangler runs through the Camp Jeep obstacle course.


The electric Chevrolet Corvette CX Concept sits alongside other Corvette models within Chevrolets section of the Detroit Auto Show.

A 2026 Ford Bronco runs the Built Wild Experience course.


The sleek and refined Cadillac Elevated Velocity Concept Vehicle slowly rotates on top of its display.

The 2026 Lincoln Aviator sits upon the Lincoln floor.

A Jeep Wrangler Gladiator shows off its well earned mud from off roading.

Attendees laugh with a rep from INEOS as they check out the INEOS Grenadiers.

Big Foot snuck into the show.

A classic 1965 Shelby Cobra sits alongside other classic vehicles.

A 1991 Lamborghini Diablo sits alongside other classic sports cars.

The Dodge Charger sits near the presentation stage after it was named the 2026 NACTOY Car of the Year.

The Ford Maverick Lobo was named the 2026 NACTOY Truck of the Year.

The Hyundai Palisade was named the 2026 NACTOY Utility Vehicle of the Year.

Wrestling at Taqueria El Rey

EL CENTRAL
HISPANIC NEWS
SPORTS
Sports Editor: Dan Graschuck/ EL CENTRAL

Photos by Adam J. Dewey/ EL CENTRAL PHOTOGRAPHER

Last Saturday night, at Taqueria El Rey, before a packed house, the fans were treated to seven outstanding bouts of professional wrestling. The show was presented by the IBW wrestling association with seven outstanding bouts, with Big Mama beating Nyla Rose, in the main event.

The next IBW wrestling show will be Sunday February 22, at the Taqueria El Rey.

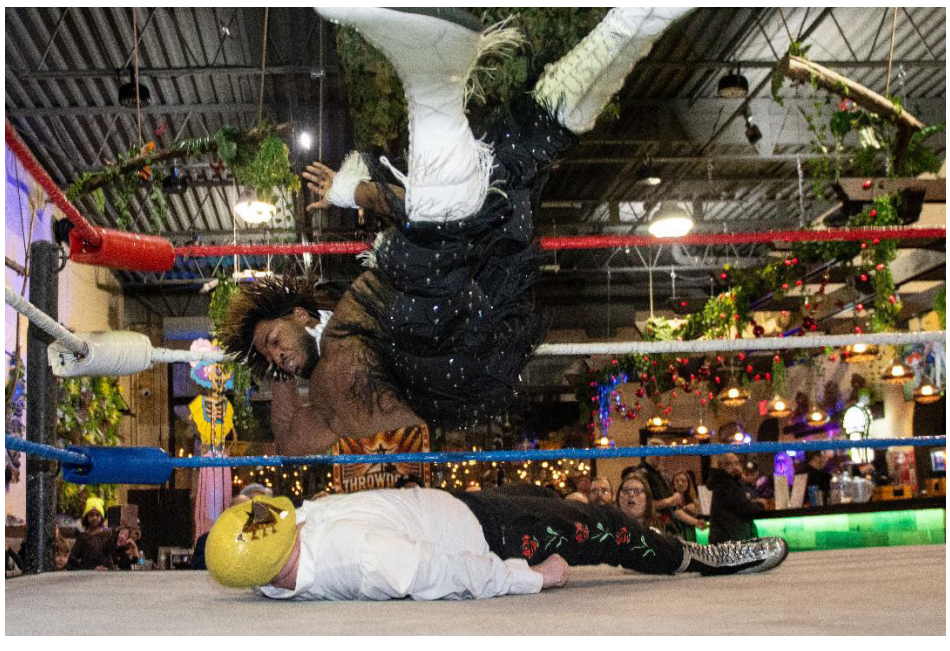
Photos below from the Saturday night show

Big Momma traps Nyla Rose against the turnbuckle

"The Dean of Mean" Cesar Ashur throws a punch to Anthony Rivera's head as he is pinned by "Thee Mightee" Bojack against the turnbuckle

Lil Fred head butts Ric Cannon

Father Marquis pins The Great Tiger on the ropes



Simply Devine delivers a flying elbow to Chico Amante

Roddy Sauvino delivers a blow to The Deacon H5

EL CENTRAL HISPANIC NEWS

Pateando la No. 5

SPORTS

Mexico and Canada Start World Cup Preparations

David Levine
EL CENTRAL

While the United States decided not to have a January camp for the first time in decades, their World Cup co-hosts gathered their domestic talent for training outside the usual FIFA international windows. Mexico scheduled friendly games against Panama and Bolivia, two teams who rely heavily on home-based players, for this week. They have also added a game against Iceland in February.

In addition to the usual Liga MX players who make up the bulk of the national team, Javier Aguirre has added three dual-nationals from the USA to his squad. Midfielder Obed Vargas of the MLS Seattle Sounders made a one-time switch from the USA to Mexico under FIFA last year. He has a decent chance to make the final squad for the World Cup. Two newcomers highlight Aguirre's selection this time, though.

Both Richard Ledezma and Brian Gutierrez joined Chivas during the winter. Ledezma has had a varied career with stints in MLS and at PSV Eindhoven. While with the Dutch power, he suffered a terrible knee injury during a UEFA Champions League game. He never regained his starting spot at the club after his recovery and moved to MLS with New York City FC, but could not establish himself as a regular or as a player superior to other options. He is in the process of filing his one-time switch to Mexico after representing the United States at both youth and senior levels. At 25 years old, he is not better than others of his age range in the US midfield, so he has sought his fortune with Mexico.

Gutierrez is much the same story. Cut from the 2024 US Olympic team, he played out last season with the Chicago Fire and left for Chivas with a reported $5 million transfer fee going to the Fire. He has filed with FIFA for a one-time switch, meaning he doesn't see a future representing the USA internationally. He's a creative midfielder with a strong left foot. For Mexico, he will compete with the likes of Club Tijuana's 17 year old star Gilberto Mora for playing time.

Aguirre will have to use the March international window games against Portugal and Belgium to incorporate the handful of European based players who miss out on these two friendlies. The games against fellow World Cup qualifier Panama and playoff participant Bolivia will give these domestic players an excellent preview of what back-to-back games will be like during the summer. Both opponents are sturdy in defense, if limited going forward. Mexico will be expected to control both games and their rabid supporters will be demanding convincing wins.

Canada has lower expectations than Mexico. Their American coach Jesse Marsch also has fewer resources than Javier Aguirre. Marsch called up a mixed group of MLS players, Canadian Professional League players, and youth players to play a B international against Guatemala. Columbus Crew forward Jacen Russell-Rowe scored the only goal of the game in the second half. Only a handful of the players who appeared for Canada had more than a few caps. The squad was further weakened due to an injury to winger Jacob Shaffelburg.

Marsch and everyone associated with the Canadian team will be hoping for an injury-free spring ahead of the World Cup. Bayern Munich star Alphonso Davies is just working his way back from a major knee injury and Juventus striker Jonathan David has struggled for form in Serie A. Both will be vital when Marsch gets his full team together for the March window. Soccer Canada has planned a camp in Toronto with two games with the opponents yet to be announced. The Canadian will host Uzbekistan in Edmonton on June 1 and play a second warm up game on June 5 or 6 against another World Cup participant to wrap up preparations.

Both coaches have seen the benefits of playing friendly games in January, even though they cannot have their top players because of the European club schedule. The USA opted not to play in January this year. Given the lack of availability of Mauricio Pochettino's preferred squad and the short-term nature of his appointment, the decision made sense. The results of all three decisions will be evident in June.

Claressa Shields at LCA, February 22nd

Nominations Encouraged for Michigan Lottery's Excellence in Education Awards to Honor Outstanding Educators

Parents, students, school staff members, and others are encouraged to nominate outstanding public-school educators for the Michigan Lottery's 2025-26 Excellence In Education awards.

All public-school employees may be nominated for the Excellence In Education awards, which recognize educators who go "above and beyond" to make a difference in the lives of children. To nominate a publicschool educator, go to https://www.michiganlottery.com/excellence-in-education.

The Michigan Lottery established the Excellence in Education awards in 2014 to recognize outstanding public-school educators across the state during the school year.

One outstanding educator will be selected each week and will receive a $2,000 cash prize. At the end of the school year, one of these weekly award winners will be selected to receive the Lottery's Educator of the Year award and will receive a $10,000 cash prize.

The winner of the 2025 Educator of the Year award was Kelly Herberholz, a science teacher and administrative intern with Dakota High School in Macomb.

Hundreds of educators were nominated during the 2024-25 school year, which was the 11th year of the Excellence in Education awards program. Thirty-four of these nominees, including Herberholz, were selected to win a weekly award.

Previous winners of the Educator of the Year award:

- 2024 – Samantha TwoCrow, the director of the Indigenous Education Program for Suttons Bay Public Schools in Suttons Bay.
- 2023 – Kathryn Kluzak, a kindergarten teacher with Robert L. Green Elementary in East Lansing.
- 2022 – Spencer Vanderheide, a high school teacher with Kenowa Hills High School in Grand Rapids.
- 2021 – Janice Smith, a school social worker at Fisher Magnet Lower Academy in Detroit.
- 2020 – Megan Sidge, an Autism Spectrum Disorder teacher at Hickory Woods Elementary in Walled Lake.
- 2019 – Stewart Kieliszewski, an Earth science, biology, mechatronics, and media teacher for eighth through 12 graders at the Ubly Community Schools.
- 2018 – Kerri Moccio, a first-grade literacy intervention specialist at Bedford Elementary School in Dearborn Heights.
- 2017 – Linda Holzwarth, a social studies teacher at Portage West Middle School in Portage.
- 2016 – Daniel Carr, a Spanish and sports marketing teacher at Waverly High School in Lansing.
- 2015 – Michael Craig, a special education teacher at the Charles Drew Transition Center in Detroit.

Excellence In Education award nominees should demonstrate the following qualities:

- Excellence – Their work consistently helps students and/or their schools or school districts advance to higher levels of academic achievement.
- Dedication – They consistently go above and beyond expectations to help students succeed.
- Inspiration – Their work inspires others around them to exceed expectations either academically or professionally.
- Leadership – They demonstrate clear leadership skills in their positions with their school or school districts.
- Effectiveness – The nominee's work has clear and positive results on the educational advancement of students within the school or school district.

Scan the QR code to nominate an outstanding educator in your life today!

WINTER AT VALADE
Free and open to all ages!
JANUARY 10-MARCH 1
ROBERT C. VALADE PARK
2670 ATWATER ST, DETROIT, MI
WINTER FUN EVERY SATURDAY & SUNDAY
Giant Fireplaces & Marshmallow Roasters
Sledding
Hot Seasonal Drinks
Winter Games
Free Weekly Activities
POLAR POWER WALKS
Every Sunday, Jan 11-Mar 1, 12-3PM
Riverfront visitors of all ages and abilities are invited to get their steps in and enjoy a cold-weather-friendly workout during Polar Power Walks with Urban Solace
THEMED EVENTS
Fire & Ice Festival | Jan 24 & 25 New Dates!
Presented by BEDROCK
Enjoy medieval fun with a winter twist, featuring an ice carving competition, live entertainment, themed activities, and the lighting of the Fire & Ice Tower
Lunar New Year Celebration | Feb 14
Presented by Visit Detroit
In collaboration with the Michigan Taiwanese American Association, ring in the Lunar New Year with a festive parade, lion, dragon, and Nezha dances, hands-on arts and crafts, and musical performances from a Chinese orchestra

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Luchando por el derecho de vivir en paz

Continuado de la página 1

otros voluntarios, armaron por centenares. Adoptado desde noviembre, lo de hoy fue una distribución rutinaria de silbatos con instrucciones en bodegas, restaurantes y gasolineras de la zona.

EL 20 de enero se cumplió un año desde que Trump volvió a la Casa Blanca. A nivel nacional, la imagen de autos vacíos con las lunas destrozadas, Personas siendo tiradas al suelo y arrestadas por múltiples agentes de ICE, ciudadanos y migrantes amenazados y baleados resumen también el primer

Protesta contra ICE en Detroit.

año de la cacería inmigrante que el republicano ha iniciado.

A la muerte de Renee Good por un agente migratorio, le siguió la "inmunidad absoluta" avalada por la administración de Trump para oficiales federales. Estudiantes K-12 arrestados y enviados a centros de detención o deportados, y mientras videos de agentes migratorios pidiendo documentos a personas de piel oscura con acento fuerte en Minnesota se vuelven virales, comunidades y activistas buscan nuevas formas de protegerse entre ellos.

En Michigan, a lo largo de la baja península, desde redes de transporte, silbatos, colectas de dinero y hasta patrullajes y monitoreo para advertir la presencia de ICE, comunidades desde Grand Rapids hasta Detroit se han contagiado de métodos de autodefensa debido a su efectividad contra agentes migratorios en ciudades como Chicago, Los Angeles y Nueva York.

"Los estudiantes están yendo a la escuela con miedo; hay mucho miedo incluso entre ciudadanos estadounidenses", agrega Astudillo, miembro de Asamblea. "Y el primer paso de quebrar el miedo es juntarnos y ayudarnos unos a otros en lo que podamos."

Mientras maneja, Verónica Rodríguez carga más de uno de estos silbatos; los tiene cerca en caso de que tenga que usarlos o dárselos a alguien más. Son casi las 6 am y al celular le llegan mensajes de vecinos sobre avistamientos de ICE. En un grupo de WhatsApp coordina con otros dos conductores quién puede confirmar la ubicación. Esta vez irá Vero, como la llaman de cariño; ella, junto con otros conductores, patrulla las calles de Southwest Detroit avisando de la presencia de agentes federales a través de transmisiones y publicaciones en Facebook.

Desde abril, Vero ya tiene horarios y rutas definidas. Camionetas y SUVS con lunas polarizadas, mal estacionados en lugares no adecuados, son potenciales sospechosos. Al llegar a la zona del avistamiento, Vero encuentra una camioneta blanca abandonada; las personas que iban adentro ya fueron arrestadas. Ella toma fotos y actualiza que la zona ya está limpia. Sus compañeros llegan, intentan averiguar los datos del auto para avisar a los familiares y coordinan para que una grúa remolque el auto.

En ciudades como Grand Rapids, Pontiac y Detroit, ciudadanos comunes han venido patrullando avisando a la comunidad para que mantenga su rutina diaria. Para Rodríguez, ya es una responsabilidad, pues no quiere ver a sus vecinos en centros de detención y luego deportados. "La gente espera nuestros mensajes para salir a comprar comida, medicinas y todo eso", cuenta Rodríguez. "Son personas en riesgo que necesitan cuidado y siempre nos agradecen. Ellos también han aprendido a informar, pero también dependen de nuestros avisos. Es así como se va empoderando a la comunidad."

Aunque en Michigan no ha habido redadas migratorias como en Los Ángeles, Chicago o Minneapolis, para muchos activistas no es descabellado pensar que Detroit o Grand Rapids sean las siguientes. Aquí, los arrestos diarios de ICE se han incrementado en 230% en comparación con el 2024 según MLive, y las deportaciones se incrementaron en 123% más que el 2024. Jeff Smith, de GR Rapid Response to ICE, afirma que la presencia de los agentes migratorios se ha intensificado desde junio y que mantienen tácticas de seguimiento y arresto durante actividades matutinas.

Junto al movimiento Cosecha, GR Rapid Response trabaja para "minimizar el daño que está dirigido a inmigrantes". Redes de transporte hacia citas de corte o compras diarias, protestas a favor de políticas de santuario, recaudación de fondos para sustento familiar y gastos legales son las formas en que ayudan. Ambos iniciaron en 2017.

"La mayoría de las personas que son detenidas son el principal sustento económico de sus familias. De un momento a otro los hogares se quedan

Voluntarios empacaron y distribuyeron para alertar a la gente de los agentes de inmigración.

sin ingresos y aun así tienen que pagar la renta y comprar comida", señala Smith.

El año pasado, durante la investidura de Trump como 47.º presidente de EE.UU., en Michigan, la temperatura marcaba un dígito. En el centro de GR, activistas del movimiento Cosecha marchaban en contra de la cruzada antiinmigrante que se avecinaba. "Las deportaciones son problemas que los inmigrantes hemos tenido que lidiar siempre, ya sea este gobierno o el anterior. Queremos terminar con eso.

Ellos son solo la misma moneda con distinta cara." Dijo Gema Lowe, miembro de Movimiento Cosecha, aquella oportunidad.

Desde entonces, las denuncias por la colaboración de la policía local con ICE y las demandas por políticas santuario en GR y en el condado de Kent se volvieron una presión constante ante las negativas del alcalde David LaGrand, quien las considera "falsa esperanza". La tarde del 6 de enero, cinco voluntarios de Cosecha

y GR Rapid Response fueron arrestados dentro del edificio del sheriff de Kent. Ellos protestaban contra una supuesta colaboración entre la oficina del Sheriff del condado y ICE, en donde se retenía a inmigrantes por más tiempo hasta la llegada de ICE, a pesar de haber estado listos para ser liberados.

En Detroit, el martes 13 de enero, el término santuario estuvo de boca en boca entre políticos, activistas y miembros de la comunidad. Durante la reunión del Consejo Municipal de Detroit, residentes demandaban acciones sólidas y políticas de santuario que protejan a los inmigrantes. A dos millas, en el Motorcity Casino Hotel, Trump, en su discurso, amenazaba con que toda jurisdicción santuario perderá todo financiamiento federal a partir del 1 de febrero.

Fernando Ramírez, de 66 años, pasó por 2 centros de procesamiento antes de ser enviado a North Lake, en Baldwin. Ramírez, quien cuenta con permiso de trabajo legal, fue arrestado por agentes subsidiarios de ICE en octubre de 2025, mientras pesaba el tráiler que conducía.

Para sus hijas, Samantha Ramírez, de 37 años, y su hermana Nahomi, de 30, fue una bendición que lo llevaran a un lugar cercano a ellas. Viven a 40 minutos en auto de Baldwin y comenzaron a ofrecer ayuda a otros detenidos a medida que su padre hacía amistades dentro. Crearon Raíces Migrantes para brindar apoyo, que incluye ayuda financiera, comunicación con el exterior y transporte para reunirlos con sus familias.

"Nació de chiripa. Lo que estamos haciendo es asegurar que los internos tengan a alguien; que sepan que hay personas acá afuera que están peleando por ellos", cuenta Samantha. "Les depositamos un poquito de dinero a cada uno. Aunque no es mucho, para ellos era todo, porque así hablan con su familia y compran algo de comida para estar más cómodos."

Desde que North Lake abrió en el verano del 2025, pasó de 28 internos en agosto a 1352 para finales de noviembre, según el Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse (TRAC). La legisladora Rashida Tlaib (MI-12) la calificó de "condiciones deshumanizantes" después de una visita a inicios de diciembre.

Las denuncias de pésimos tratos, mala alimentación, intentos de suicidio y la última muerte de un inmigrante búlgaro a mediados de diciembre, al que ICE calificó de causa natural, zanjaron las alertas en todo aquel arrestado por agentes federales y sus familiares.

Cuando un interno es liberado, la familia de este es avisada con muy poca anticipación. Desde allí una red de transporte, en coordinación con otros conductores, ayuda a los internos liberados a reencontrarse con sus familias en estados como Illinois, Indiana y Wisconsin.

La noche del lunes 12 de diciembre, el Sr. Ramírez fue liberado. Las reuniones entre familias que las hermanas Ramírez lograron a decenas de internos liberados, ahora son vividas por ellas. De regreso a casa, las lágrimas, los besos y los abrazos no cesaban en casi una hora de vuelta a casa. Ahora, Raíces Migrantes mantendrá mayor contacto con los internos para darles voz en el exterior.

"Lo que todos hacemos es un recordatorio de que hay más gente buena que mala, nomás que ahorita los malos están un poquito más fuertes", zanjó Samantha. "Pero nosotros debemos seguir peleando por nuestro derecho de vivir en paz."

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Special World's Cultures

Brazil

Nelida Piñon

Vila Isabel, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, (1937 - 2022), daughter of the merchant Lino Piñón Muiños (Piñón Muñoz) and Olivia Cuiñas Piñón, of Spanish origin. From a very young age, she felt drawn to the world of literature.

"I began to write as a child, reading the books I was given, inventing those I didn't have at hand [...] at eight years old I proclaimed myself a writer. I don't know, however, at what moment, and from what shelter, this other writer I am today emerged later, who aspires to encompass beings and

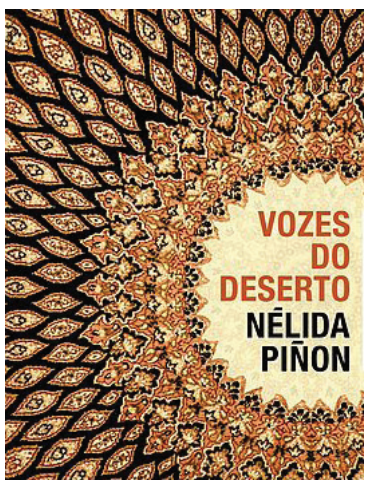
"Everything that you know is in the imagination."

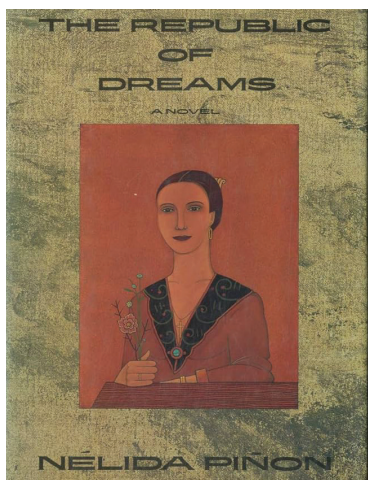
enigmas." Nélida Piñón was a staunch defender of human rights, especially women's rights. She has been considered by the New York Review of Books the best Brazilian writer, and World Literature Today magazine dedicated its first issue of 2005 to her. Among the awards she received are the Juan Rulfo Latin American and Caribbean Literature Prize (1995), the most important in Latin America (she was the first woman to receive it and the first Portuguese-language author); the Menéndez Pelayo Prize (2003), in recognition of her work as a teacher and researcher in the humanities and her literary creations; and the Prince of Asturias Award for Literature (2005), "for her stimulating narrative work, artistically grounded in reality and memory, and also in fantasy and dreams."

Piñón debuted in the literary world in 1961 with *Guía-mapa de Gabriel Arcanjo* (Guide-Map of Gabriel Arcanjo), a novel about sin, forgiveness, and the relationship of mortals with God through the dialogue between the protagonist and his Guardian Angel.

Nélida reflects sincerely: "I write for the pleasure of being happy, of being someone else. Because one cannot be oneself all one's life; one must be many. One must have a vocation for multiplicity. And literature allows you to enter the other's world. That is, in a way, it reduces the scope of the mystery. It doesn't clarify the mystery because the mystery is beyond our ability to translate it. But reading seems to me like a revelation; it is the capacity to interpret what until then you didn't know."

She maintains that despite participating in some political gatherings to which she is invited, she "never" stops being a writer. "I spread my ideas without charging," she says, "because I want a better world." Finally, referring to migrants, she philosophizes: "The immigrants of the 19th and early 20th centuries had a dream, a dream that, to be realized, required extraordinary strength, a renunciation of their own lives, their own people and origins, to discover the Americas, for example."





"Literature had allowed me to be in this place and to live in many other worlds".

Her novel, *The Republic of Dreams*, is inspired by her vision of Galician emigration to Brazil. The work, which won the Brazilian Association of Art Critics Prize in 1985, is, in the author's own words, "a deliberate novel [...] I knew that to write it I had to prepare myself, and I did so over many years of my life. It was a large project that would encompass two continents, 300 years, or more, because there are aspects of that novel that reach back to the 12th century."

Roberto Ayón Ballesteros

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EL CENTRAL Hispanic News
ESPECIAL CULTURAS DEL MUNDO,
by Mariana Ayón RV

Dunes of Jericoara

Jijoca de Jericoacoara (Ceará, Brazil) is a small municipality located in northeastern Brazil, in the state of Ceará, 300 km west of Fortaleza. It is one of the most visited tourist beaches in Brazil, and one of the most popular worldwide for thousands of tourists who love nature and sports. Travelers can admire its natural beauty, rivers, lagoons, and beaches year-round.

It is a small fishing village, popular with windsurfers and kitesurfers, known as "the Northeastern paradise" for preserving its pristine natural beauty. This place can only be reached by authorized vehicles capable of navigating the sandy paved roads and climbing the large dunes. Until about 20 years ago, Jericoacoara remained an isolated fishing village; there were no roads, electricity, or telephone service, and money was rarely used.

Jericoacoara, although currently preserved as a fishing village on the coast of Ceará. Its beaches were almost deserted until hippies from various parts of Brazil discovered it in the 1970s. They were followed by Europeans who came on vacation and ended up staying. It remained a paradise known to very few until about ten years ago, when it began to appear on lists of the most beautiful beaches in the world in specialized publications.

Surrounded by dunes and warm-water lagoons, Jericoara is located within a national park. There are no roads leading there, just sand everywhere. Beyond the lush nature, there is much to discover.

ESPECIAL CULTURAS DEL MUNDO

Brasil

Nélida Piñón

Vila Isabel, Río de Janeiro, Brasil, (1937 - 2022) hija del comerciante Lino Piñon Muiños (Piñón Muñoz) y de Olivia Cuiñas Piñon, de origen español. Desde muy pequeña se sintió atraída por el mundo de las letras.

"Comencé a escribir siendo aún una niña, leyendo los libros que me daban, inventando los que no tenía a mano [...] con ocho años me proclamé escritora. No sé, sin embargo, en qué instante, y de qué abrigo, salió más tarde esta otra escritora que soy hoy, que aspira a abarcar los seres y los enigmas".

"Todo lo que sabes está en la imaginación".

Nélida Piñón fue una firme defensora de los derechos humanos, especialmente los de la mujer, ha sido considerada por la New York Review of Books la mejor escritora brasileña y la revista World Literature Today le dedicó el primer número del año 2005. Entre los galardones recibidos se cuentan el premio de literatura latinoamericana y del Caribe Juan Rulfo (1995), el más importante de América Latina (fue la primera mujer en recibirlo y el primer autor en lengua portuguesa); el premio Menéndez Pelayo (2003), en reconocimiento a su labor como docente e investigadora en el campo de las humanidades y a su obra de creación literaria, y el Príncipe de Asturias de las letras (2005), "por su incitante obra narrativa, artísticamente sustentada en la realidad y la memoria, y también en la fantasía y los sueños".

Piñón debutó en el circuito literario en 1961 con Guía-mapa de Gabriel Arcanjo, una novela sobre el pecado, el perdón y la relación de los mortales con Dios a través del diálogo entre el protagonista y su Ángel de la Guarda.

Nélida, reflexiona con sinceridad: "Escribo por el gusto de ser feliz, de ser otro. Porque uno no puede ser uno mismo toda la vida, hay que ser muchos. Hay que tener la vocación de la multiplicidad. Y la literatura permite que tú ingreses en el mundo ajeno del vecino. O sea, de alguna manera reduce el área del misterio. No aclara el misterio porque el misterio es superior a nuestra habilidad de traducirlo. Pero la lectura me parece un deslumbramiento, es la capacidad de poder interpretar lo que hasta entonces ignorabas".

Sostiene que a pesar de participar en algunos encuentros políticos a los que la invitan, "nunca" deja de ser escritora. "Las ideas las propago sin cobrar -dice-, porque quiero un mundo mejor". Finalmente refiriéndose a los migrantes filosofa: "los inmigrantes del siglo XIX e inicios del XX tuvieron un sueño, un sueño que para ser concretado requería una fuerza extraordinaria, una renuncia hacia su propia vida, hacia su propio pueblo y origen para descubrir las Américas por ejemplo".

"La literatura me ha permitido estar en este lugar y vivir en todos los mundos".

Su novela La república de los sueños, está Inspirada en su visión de la emigración gallega a Brasil, la obra, que obtuvo el premio de la Asociación de Críticos de Arte de Brasil en 1985, es, en palabras de la propia autora, "una novela deliberada [...] Yo sabía que para llegar a ella me tenía que preparar, y lo hice a lo largo de muchos años de mi vida. Era un proyecto grande que abarcaría dos continentes, 300 años, o más, porque hay aspectos en esa novela que llegan hasta el siglo XII".

Roberto Ayón Ballesteros

Dunas de Jericoara

Jijoca de Jericoacoara (Ceará, Brasil) es un municipio pequeño ubicado en el nordeste de Brasil, en el estado de Ceará, a 300 km al oeste de Fortaleza. Es una de las playas turísticas más visitadas de Brasil, y de las más populares en todo el mundo para los miles de turistas amantes de la naturaleza y el deporte. Los viajeros pueden admirar durante todo el año su naturaleza, sus ríos, sus lagunas y playas.

Es un pequeño pueblo de pescadores, de deportistas de windsurf y kitesurf, conocido como "el paraíso nordestino" por conservar su belleza natural intacta. Sólo se puede llegar a este lugar mediante vehículos autorizados que puedan andar por las calles pavimentadas de arena, y subir las grandes dunas. Hasta hace unos 20 años, Jericoacoara seguía siendo un pueblo de pescadores aislado de la ciudad, no existían carreteras, ni electricidad, ni telefonía y el dinero rara vez se utilizaba.

Jericoacoara, aunque actualmente se preserva como un pueblo de pescadores en la costa de Ceará. Sus playas eran casi desiertas hasta que hippies de varios lugares de Brasil la descubrieron en la década de 1970. Los siguieron los europeos que venían de vacaciones y terminaban quedando. Siguió siendo un paraíso conocido por muy pocos hasta hace unos diez años, cuando empezó a figurar en listas de las playas más lindas del mundo en publicaciones especializadas.

Cercada de dunas y lagunas de aguas cálidas, Jericoara está ubicada dentro de un parque nacional. No hay rutas hacia allá, solo arena por todos lados. Más allá de la naturaleza exuberante, y mucho por descubrir.

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